

METHOD OF REGISTERING THE POSITION OF A RIBBON MOVING AT A CONSTANT ANGULAR VELOCITY AND DETECTING THE AMOUNT OF THE RIBBON USED IN A PHOTO PRINTER

Abstract

A method of registering the position of a ribbon by moving the ribbon with a constant angular velocity and detecting the amount of ribbon used in a photo printer. The ribbon includes dye regions each having several dye frames, and black bar regions each prior to a dye region. The first dye frame of each dye region is registered after each black bar region is detected. The amount of ribbon used is determined based on the moved time of the black bar region. And while one of the dye frames is finished printing, the required time for moving the ribbon to register the start position of the subsequent dye frame is obtained based on the moved time of the black bar region, the length of the printed part of the dye frame, and the length from non-printed part of the dye frame to the subsequent dye frame.